(d) what steps are being taken to rescue and restore the climatic balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The studies carried out by Indian Meteorological (IMD) suggest that the frequency of heat waves and severe heat waves has increased after 1991. But the above changes may not be attributed to a long term increasing trend. Therefore no definite causal reasons can be given.

(d) The climatic balance is a global issue. India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, which addresses the issues related to global warming and climate change.

Deaths due to snake bite

†1855. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of deaths due to snake bite is maximum in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the reasons behind most of such deaths is non-availability of treatment at health centres immediately, specially in rural areas;

(c) if not, the details of efforts being made by Government in this regard; and

(d) Government's reaction on the report of national seminar on snake bite organized with the courtesy of World Health Organisation in Kochi?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) As per the compiled data based on the information received from Directorate of Health Services of respective States/UTs, the number of deaths reported due to snake bite in the country is 669 in 2004 and 457 in 2005.

Since Health is a State subject, the anti-snake venom drugs/vaccines are procured by the State Governments directly from the manufacturing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

units and supplied to health centres of the States. The Anti snake venom drug is produced in the country in sufficient quantities.

(d) Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences, Cochin, with support from World Health Organisation (WHO) and Government of India organised 'National Snake Bite Conference' in July 2006 to develop a draft National Snake Bite First-aid Protocol for India, a draft National Treatment Protocol for snake bite and to suggest a coordinated research plan for snake bite in India. The organizers are yet to finalize the recommendations of the conference.

New drugs for various diseases

1856. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the leading pharmaceutical companies have launched programmes for developing new drugs for curing diseases such as cancer, diabetes, arthritis, etc.;

(b) if so, the names of companies alongwith the products they have developed/are in the process of developing;

(c) whether the necessary statutory clinical trials have been completed, if not, the state at which these trials are being conducted;

(d) what steps are proposed to ensure that no side effects on consumption of such drugs are caused; and

(e) by when these drugs are likely to be ready for use?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) Yes Sir. A number of Indian Pharmaceutical companies have launched drug discovery/development programmes. Some of the new drugs being developed are indicated for cancer, diabetes, arthritis etc.

(b) and (c) Information regarding the companies together with products being developed is given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The molecules currently are at various phases of clinical trials (i.e., Phase I/II), which provide a picture about safety, and efficacy profile of a new molecule. Permission to conduct Phase I clinical trial for molecule developed within the country is given after critical examination of preclinical data (animal toxicity) by a panel of experts. At every stage of